

President to be consistent with NAFTA and GATT.

Mr. President, I am also pleased to support S. 534 because it contains provisions addressing the issue of waste flow control authority, an issue of vital importance to Pennsylvania's counties.

During the 103d Congress, we encountered a new issue with respect to municipal solid waste—the issue of waste flow control authority. As a result, today we are also considering legislation which would restore local authority to control the flow of municipal solid waste.

On May 16, 1994, the Supreme Court held—6-3—in *Carbone versus Clarkstown* that a flow control ordinance, which requires all solid waste to be processed at a designated waste management facility, violates the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. In striking down the Clarkstown ordinance, the Court stated that the ordinance discriminated against interstate commerce by allowing only the favored operator to process waste that is within the town's limits.

As a result of the Court's decision, flow control ordinances in Pennsylvania and other States are considered unconstitutional. Therefore, it is necessary for Congress to enact legislation providing clear authorization for local governments to utilize waste flow control.

I have met with county commissioners who have made clear that this issue is vitally important to the local governments in Pennsylvania. As further evidence of the need for congressional action, I would note the numerous phone calls and letters my office has received from individual Pennsylvania counties and municipal solid waste authorities that support waste flow control legislation. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania has pointed out that since 1988, flow control has been the primary tool used by 65 of the 67 Pennsylvania counties to enforce solid waste plans and meet waste reduction/recycling goals or mandates. Many Pennsylvania jurisdictions have spent a considerable amount of public funds on disposal facilities, including upgraded sanitary landfills, state-of-the-art resources recovery facilities, and co-composting facilities. In the absence of flow control authority, many of these worthwhile projects could be jeopardized. There is also a very real concern that as a result of the *Carbone* decision, prompt congressional action is necessary to ensure that local communities may meet their debt service obligations related to the issuance of revenue bonds for the construction of their solid waste management facilities.

I believe that this bill will protect the ability of municipalities to plan effectively for the management of their municipal solid waste while also guaranteeing that market forces will still provide opportunities for enterprising

companies in the waste management industry.

In conclusion, this legislation makes sense because in the absence of Federal legislation to empower States to restrict cross-border flows of waste, Pennsylvania and other States inevitably become dumping grounds for States that haven't shown the fortitude to enact realistic long-term waste management plans. Further, by restoring flow control authority, this legislation protects Pennsylvania and its component local jurisdictions, which have promulgated comprehensive solid waste management plans and established state-of-the-art facilities to handle waste generated within the Commonwealth.

I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 869

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, possibly the most important provision of this legislation for my State is in restoring the opportunity for small community or county landfills to be exempt from the ground water monitoring requirements of RCRA, if they meet certain conditions.

Under the bill a community landfill can be exempt from monitoring if it can demonstrate four things: that it takes in no more than 20 tons of waste per day, that there is no evidence of ground water contamination, that it is in an area that receives less than 25 inches of precipitation, and that it has no practical landfill alternative.

The problem we have in Colorado and, I suspect, throughout the West, is that we have many landfills that pose zero threat to ground water but they may be taking in more than the bill's limit of 20 tons of trash per day.

My amendment does two things: First, it codifies an existing regulation under which a landfill operator may file a no-migration petition with the State; if the petition is approved, the landfill operator becomes exempt from the ground water monitoring requirements.

And second, my amendment directs the Administrator to publish within 6 months an explanatory, or guidance, document by which small towns and counties will be able to easily and directly take advantage of this opportunity.

Since the implementation of RCRA, about a third of the landfills in Colorado have closed. Towns and counties have spent millions developing new landfills that comply with the subtitle D requirements, in spite of the fact that in most of Colorado there is practically zero threat of leaching dangerous substances from landfills into ground water.

Dozens of landfills in Colorado are situated more than 100 feet above the water table; the intervening layers are often composed of shale and clay, making it impossible for materials to leach downward. Under the existing subtitle D landfill rules these landfills must be lined with an impermeable liner; to then require that these communities

spend an additional \$15,000 per year or so to test the ground water is an extreme form of overkill.

Mr. President, the EPA understands that these conditions exist and to their credit the agency conceived of and adopted this no migration petition process. All that my amendment does is to codify this opportunity, an opportunity that has already stood the full test of rulemaking, and to push EPA to make the program available in our rural counties.

Mr. President, I want to particularly thank the distinguished chairman, Senator CHAFEE, and the distinguished ranking member, Senator BAUCUS, for working with me on this important amendment to our western counties.

COMMENDING FORMER PRESIDENT BUSH

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to commend former President Bush for the courageous stand he has taken in canceling his National Rifle Association membership based upon the improper language that was used in a solicitation letter by the National Rifle Association.

I previously have spoken on this floor about the intemperate language that was used in that letter. It is no excuse to say, "Well, fundraising letters are not always accurate. There was a little bit of hyperbole here, and it went a little bit overboard, but perhaps otherwise it was all right."

I think to describe members of law enforcement organizations of the United States as "jack-booted thugs" and individuals wearing "nazi bucket helmets" who randomly shoot civilians is just totally improper.

So, Mr. President, I commend former President Bush. I think what he did was the right thing. I hope it sends a sobering note to the National Rifle Association to watch its language, particularly language it sends out in solicitations, or in whatever manner in which they dispense such language.

I congratulate the former President for his actions.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, we are ending the long, long trail toward passage of S. 534.

In order to accomplish crossing that goal line, I ask unanimous consent that, except for the following amendments, no other first-degree amendments be in order after the close of